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Edmonton metro

Merry Christmas! From: Non-Christians metroLIFE

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Time to kill daylight savings

LEGISLATURE

Bill follows petition to observe Central Time all year



Josie Lukey
For Metro | Calgary

It's time to choose one time.

That's according to Thomas Dang, NDP MLA for Edmonton-South West who will table a bill next spring to repeal the Daylight Savings Act (DSA).

On Tuesday, PC leadership candidate and MLA Richard Starke tabled a petition to the Alberta legislature to repeal the DSA and require Albertans to observe Central Standard Time throughout the entire year.

Dang said constituency offices receive a "big flood" of emails, letters and phone calls twice a year about the time change and he has been in consultations with mem-

bers of his caucus and Alberta families in drafting a bill.

"I'd like to see one time all year so you wouldn't have to change your clock anymore," said Dang.

"I don't think that anybody really enjoys changing their clock twice a year."

Michael Connolly, NDP MLA for Calgary-Hawkwood said he wouldn't be opposed to abolishing daylight savings time either.

Previously, Connolly said he received more emails about eliminating the time change than about budgetary concerns.

Starke's petition has more than 700 signatures.

A similar petition in 2015 was presented by former MLA Jacquie Fenske, now supporting Starke in the PC leadership race, which had about

3,000 signatures.

In an interview with Metro on Wednesday, Starke said he wanted a referendum on DST to see if abolishing the time change is really what Albertans want.

Thomas Dang, NDP MLA for Edmonton-South West, said he will table a bill next spring to repeal the Daylight Savings Act. **isrock**



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This still from a video shot by media activist Salah Ashkar, a resident of one of the last remaining rebel holdouts in the city, shows a rooftop view of his neighbourhood with smoke rising in the distance from heavy bombardment in east Aleppo. SALAH ASHKAR VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Syrians leave a rebel-held area of Aleppo towards the government-held side on Tuesday during an operation by Syrian government forces to retake the embattled city.

KARAM AL-MASRI/KARAM AL-MASRI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

IDEAS

Get involved

If you are like many people in the city, you will be wondering how you can help Aleppo. Here are a few ideas in Edmonton.

1 Help local organizations working with Syrians in the city.

Groups like IFSSA, Catholic Social Services and the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers have spent much of the last year working to help hundreds of Syrian newcomers building a life in Edmonton. Huque said they're always in need of volunteers to do everything from help people move to travel to appointments. Donations are also helpful to cover programming.

2 Donate to organizations on the ground in Syria.

There are many organizations, Canadian and otherwise, working on the ground to provide relief to people in Syria. Groups like the Canadian Red Cross, Doctors without Borders, Oxfam, CARE Canada and UNICEF are all taking donations.

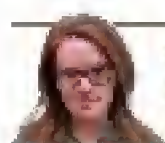
3 Write to politicians.

Labbe has been pushing people in Edmonton to contact Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office to demand humanitarian action. "We need to flood his inbox about why we're still silent on this," she said. She added that people can also write to their local MP.

How you can help Aleppo

SYRIA CRISIS

Lend a hand to organizations helping Syrians, residents urged



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

"This is more than a news story to me."

As residents trapped in the Syrian city of Aleppo post videos to social media asking the

world to help them or to remember them before they die, Jessica Labbe feels connected, half a world away in Edmonton.

Labbe remembers travelling to the city in 2008 and still keeps in touch with a family there — and is now calling for fellow Edmontonians to help Aleppo residents in any way they can.

She said she's watched with growing alarm as the city has been overwhelmed by civil war over the last five years, and in recent days as President Bashar al-Assad's forces have bore down on Aleppo and reports of mass executions and

rapes fill the news.

"I think the most heart-breaking thing over the last five years is hearing those sanitized words, like 'civilian' and 'refugee,' but those are people," Labbe said.

Mohamed Huque, executive director of the Islamic Family and Social Services Association, known as IFSSA, said recent events are just another burden for Syrian refugees in the city, still working hard to adjust to a new life in Edmonton.

He added that much remains to be done for those escaping the war as refugees in Edmonton.



Jessica Labbe's vacation photos from 2008 show a very different view of Aleppo. COURTESY JESSICA LABBE

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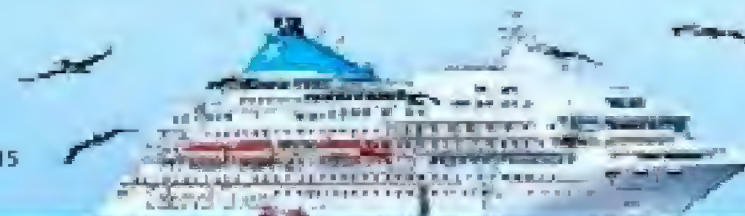
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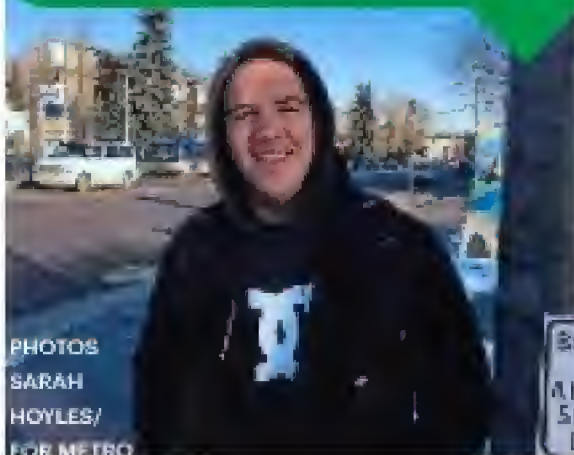
✓ WE ASKED YOU

Should Alberta keep or get rid of daylight savings time?

SARAH HOYLES FOR METRO

"If you work late at night, it's good to get the extra daylight but if you get up early in the morning, like most people do, then it's probably not worth it."

—Paul Crasui

PHOTOS
SARAH
HOYLES/
FOR METRO

"I think (daylight savings time) is pretty good. Especially when you gain an hour rather than lose an hour."

—Lydia Jang

"I don't really mind it. I do notice a change in how I function, like sleeping habits."

—Merrick Chan



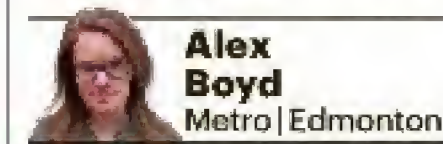
"I think we should get rid of it. I think it's hard to make that transition. They don't have it in Saskatchewan — they do quite well without it."

—Christina Chambers



EDUCATION

University resident assistants unionize

Alex
Boyd

Metro | Edmonton

Resident assistants at the University of Alberta have voted to unionize, by joining the Non-Academic Staff Association.

The group's first round of collective bargaining will start in the new year.

Kyle Monda, one of the RAs who organized last month's vote, said a new agreement will give front-line staff a voice.

"We're a fairly large group of employees," Monda said. "It's important to be able to represent ourselves fairly."

The assistants are typically upper year undergrads who work to help new students living on campus.

Monda said the 205 RAs on campus do everything from acting as social planners for their residences, to being on site for medical emergencies and working a number of on-call, over-

night shifts every month.

Unionizing is a relatively unusual move, as RAs tend to be entry-level, part-time staff, Monda said.

He said the University of Victoria is the only other university he's aware of where RAs have taken that step.

The RAs have previously lacked a way to voice concerns, and job expectations have some-

times been unclear or changed after staff were hired, Monda said.

The move comes as a new task force is slated to issue

recommendations that could mean big changes for the U of A's residence system.

"We're the front-line workers for the residence system, so it's important that our perspectives are considered within changes to the residences," Monda said.

The University of Alberta declined to comment, but said in an email that it looks forward to working with the Association "to integrate the Resident Assistants into the bargaining unit."

“

We're the front-line workers for the residence system.

Kyle Monda

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Open to child care talks

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Premier warm to opposition's ideas for panel on kids safety

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley says she's open to negotiating with the opposition to rescue a fractious all-party panel exploring ways to keep kids safe in government care.

"There are elements of what the opposition put forward that I think we can absolutely incorporate," Notley told reporters at a news conference Wednesday.

"Not everything that they're asking for will necessarily be included but we're certainly open to working with them."

The panel was announced earlier this month by Notley after it was revealed a four-year-old girl in government care, named Serenity, died of severe head trauma two years ago amid signs of violent physical and sexual abuse. Little to nothing appears to have been done since to find out why or who is responsible.



Premier Rachel Notley speaks to reporters at the Alberta legislature Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The four leaders of Alberta's opposition parties say the panel announced by Human Services Irfan Sabir has been designed, not to solve the issue, but to whitewash it to avoid embar-

rassing the government.

The leaders have said they will boycott the panel unless there are changes including whistleblower protection for those who come forward. They

also want assurances the meetings will not be behind closed doors unless necessary.

Sabir and Notley have faced repeated opposition calls in recent days for Sabir to quit over

his handling of the file.

Notley made the comments as the legislature wrapped up its fall sitting.

In the past six weeks, Notley's team took the next steps in transforming Alberta's energy and economic substructure to retrofit it for a future of greener technologies.

The government passed a bill to cap emissions from the oilsands at levels about one-third higher than current total.

It outlined plans, timelines, and a deal with power producers to phase out coal-fired electricity by 2030. The plan is to replace it with a mix of natural gas and renewables like solar, wind, and hydro.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hailed Alberta's plan as the main reason he recently approved a controversial pipeline expansion of the Trans Mountain line that takes oil from Alberta to coastal tankers in B.C.

The opposition, however, says the climate plan is a reckless, ideologically driven multi-billion-dollar misadventure where the risk rests solely on taxpayers and ratepayers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Dayhome operator faces child abandonment charges

The operator of a private Edmonton dayhome has been charged after parents say they found their five kids alone in her house when she was supposed to be looking after them.

Police confirmed to Metro Wednesday that they charged Melissa Suley, 39, with five counts of abandoning a child on Nov. 30. Suley is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 9, 2017. METRO

Province warns citizens of roaming moose in south

Watch out for moose who like to lick vehicles. That's a warning from the Alberta government for people visiting Peter Lougheed Provincial Park about 130 kilometres southeast of Calgary. Alberta Parks says moose are on the trails at Chester Lake and Burnstall Pass and are coming into the trailhead parking lots to lick salt off the sides of vehicles. The government advises people to sound their horn to try to get the salt-lickers away from their vehicles. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Winterburn to shift students

EDUCATION

More space for elementary students with jr. high move



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

A West Edmonton school will shutter its junior high program, while keeping its younger students, as school population pressures continue to mount on the outskirts of the city.

The Edmonton Public School Board voted Tuesday to move junior high students from the K-9 Winterburn school to nearby Michael Phair Junior High, when that school opens in September 2017.

Board chairman Michael Janz said community members pushed for the move, with more spaces for elementary students sorely needed. Nobody spoke against the decision at Tuesday's meeting.

"This is something that community members and parents have been asking for. We have an acute need for elementary school space in this school, and the fact that we have a new junior high opening up close by allows us to ensure that some of our youngest students have a shorter commute to school," Janz said.

Some of the growth pressures will be alleviated next fall when the board opens nine new K-9 schools in September, in addition to Michael Phair junior high and one elementary school.

Despite the new builds and



The backlog ... in many of our new communities is a result of not building schools fast enough to meet the kids we knew were coming.

Michael Janz

three schools that opened this year, Janz said the district is still playing catch-up.

He also cautioned that high schools will need to be built soon, before the population boom reaches the higher grades.

"The sooner we can open the new schools, the better," Janz said. "And it's not just the new schools in the new neighbourhoods, it's also getting these replacement schools announced."

"The backlog in school infrastructure in many of our new communities is a result of not building schools fast enough to meet the kids we knew were coming."

The board also voted Tuesday to redraw its electoral boundaries to reflect disproportionate population growth in the city's south and northeast.

MAPPED | Student shakeup slated for 2017



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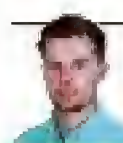


Edmonton Africa Centre's John Gaye, left, and Tesfaye Ayalew. There are concerns that some programming may be lost due to relocating. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Summer camp at risk

AFRICA CENTRE

New home can't hold all of group's programs



Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

John Gaye is worried 150 kids may be without a summer camp this year, as Edmonton's Africa Centre moves to a new facility because their current home is at risk of collapsing.

"Unless another school steps up, that's really the most impactful thing for us," said Gaye, board chair of the Council for the Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta, which runs the Africa Centre.

With only about a week's notice, the city told the group in early December that workers had to leave the old Wellington school after engineers determined the building is no longer safe for people to use.

Jennifer Fowler, director of multicultural relations with the city, said the city would've liked to have the group operate longer in the former school, which Edmonton bought about 10 years ago.

"We would have hoped to get more time out of the school because it affects the people who go there," Fowler said. "But we bought that site with the intention of building a new facility."

The Africa Centre will relocate to the Bosco Foundation building, but it's not large enough to accommodate all of the group's programs, Gaye said.

"We serve our communities, we provide a space for them," he said. "So I don't know what will happen to them because there is no solution yet."

As for the summer program, the centre needs a large space, like a gym, that can be open for most of the day throughout the week and doesn't need to be booked, Gaye added.

The Wellington building will likely be demolished, as the city has started working on designs for a new centre, which officials hope will be built on the current Wellington site.

Gaye said the group plans go to council to table such issues in hopes for solutions, like money to potentially bus people to locations offering programs.

"The city of Edmonton has been working with us to lessen the impact of this," he said.

DEVELOPMENT

Proposed Indigenous street names won't be 'white washed': city planner

A city planner says Edmonton officials won't "white wash" proposed indigenous street names, even if some residents have a hard time pronouncing them.

Cory Sousa, a principal planner in sustainable development who manages naming roads, said Tuesday the city's naming committee largely doesn't let pronunciation

issues alter approvals for new street names.

"Something hard to pronounce or spell is personal perception," Sousa said.

"We're not going to cater to one group or be colonial. We have to reach out to indigenous people who haven't been represented and honour them. We're not going to white wash it."

Sousa's assertions come a day after Coun. Bryan Anderson requested naming officials re-think the way they name new streets or neighbourhoods, after people complained to him they couldn't say or spell Maskēkosihk (Muss-Kay-Go-See) Trail.

Maskēkosihk translates to "land of the medicines" or "people of the medicines."

Anderson suggested officials choose easier-to-pronounce Cree words or create Anglicized versions for street names that honour indigenous heritage.

"I can learn, but I struggle, so why would we create situations where people are going to be forced to struggle?" he said. "There are usability solutions." JEREMY SIMES/METRO

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Feds scrap first-come, first-serve visa process

REUNIFICATION

Spots allotted by random lottery after red flags raised

Coveted spots for the parent and grandparent visa program will be awarded by lottery in 2017 after the federal Liberals scrapped the old first-come, first-serve system that had raised concerns over people paying to be at the front of that line.

Applications for the over-subscribed program had been accepted only via courier or mail at a single immigration office, and since they were processed in the order received, couriers had been doing brisk business promising to be at the front of the line, in exchange for fees that could be as high as \$400.

But that system has now been replaced by a random draw, the federal immigration minister announced Wednesday.



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister John McCallum in the House of Commons. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

"We're ensuring everyone can access the application process by giving them the same chance to have their name chosen," Immigration Minister John McCallum said in a statement.

Beginning Jan. 3, Canadians will have 30 days to fill out an online form indicating their desire to sponsor a parent or grandparent. Immigration officials will then randomly draw 10,000 individuals who will then be given 90 days to submit the application.

The change comes after The Canadian Press reported that the previous first-come, first-serve process was seeing couriers charge more than \$400 to guarantee applications would be at the top of the pile.

That raised concerns that the visas were going to those who could afford to pay the high fees or camp out for hours at the immigration office.

High demand came in part from the fact the previous Con-

servative government closed the program entirely between 2011 and 2014 to bring down a massive backlog. It re-opened in 2014 with a annual cap of 5,000 applications. Last year, 14,000 applications were received and the Liberals later raised the cap on the number of applications they would accept to 10,000.

Couriers had already started taking reservations to deliver 2017 applications, with fees ranging from \$60 to \$200, depending on whether someone wanted to guarantee their application was delivered first.

One company, Metro Mississauga, said it had about 150 reservations already and was now in the process of refunding all fees.

Company owner Chris Colaco said while he understood why the government was making the change, he wondered why it couldn't have been announced earlier. His business doesn't depend on delivering the applications, but Canadians do depend on the program, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winnipeg councillor sorry for comments



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

away from cutting the grass, filling potholes, providing the services we count on. I don't think that is our position," Browaty said.

He later issued a statement apologizing for his comments and clarifying. "I apologize if my comments offended anyone. I simply don't see this as the city's role."

Bowman said Browaty's comments demonstrates the need for greater education on the topic. He told reporters he will now review how Browaty's comments impact his role as chair of the Winnipeg Police Board—a committee that deals heavily with issues in the city's indigenous community.

A Winnipeg city councillor has apologized for saying that training city workers on the legacy of the country's residential school system would take them away from doing their jobs, like filling potholes or cutting the grass.

During a meeting, Coun. Jeff Browaty said he supports Mayor Brian Bowman's commitment to reconciliation, but said he draws the line at spending extra money.

"Taking away or paying employees overtime to attend this type of training, taking them

Survey should protect privacy, watchdog says

The federal privacy watchdog has opened a formal investigation into the Trudeau government's much-maligned online survey on electoral reform, which asks participants to disclose detailed personal information.

But privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien is not waiting to conclude the investigation

before taking action to protect Canadians' privacy.

Therrien has provided preliminary recommendations to the government aimed at better protecting the privacy of people who participate in the MyDemocracy.ca survey, his spokeswoman, Valerie Lawton, said Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Residents feel 'duped' by renewed fighting

SYRIA

Aleppo ceasefire unravels as fighting starts once again

A ceasefire to evacuate rebel fighters and civilians from the remaining opposition-held neighbourhoods of Aleppo unraveled on Wednesday, once again raising the spectre of a bloody end

to the battle for Syria's largest city as residents reported the resumption of shelling and brutal bombing runs.

Opponents of President Bashar Assad accused the government and its allies of scuttling the deal by adding new conditions.

However, hours after it crumbled, the rebels said the deal was back on. Three rebel spokesmen said the first group of wounded people and civilians were to be escorted out of the city early

Thursday morning. Rebels would follow, they said, adding that the conditions had not changed.

The evacuation was to have begun at dawn Wednesday, but quickly derailed, descending into violence. Residents said government buses arrived in the pre-dawn hours at agreed upon meeting points, where the wounded were first in line to be evacuated. But they were turned away by pro-government militias. Then violence erupted: shelling and

then airstrikes. The rebels retaliated, at one point shelling the pro-government villages of Foua and Kfraya in Idlib and detonating a car bomb in a frontline area.

Mohammed Abu Jaafar, head of forensics in eastern Aleppo, said residents felt "duped."

"People have left their shelters ... to be ready for the evacuation. I can't describe it," Abu Jaafar said. "Since the morning, they started to target the areas where people have gathered." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Smoke is seen billowing in the background on Wednesday in a rebel-held neighbourhood of Aleppo. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Beauty queen muzzled at Miss World: Reports

Canadian beauty queen Anastasia Lin is allowed to smile and look pretty at the Miss World pageant in Washington, but she's reportedly barred from opening her mouth and speaking her mind about human rights abuses in China.

Pageant officials wouldn't connect Torstar with Lin, 26, on Wednesday. Lin was blocked from attending last year's Miss World pageant in China after her criticism of Chinese human rights abuses against Falun Gong practitioners.

American news reports say that she's not allowed to speak with the media this time around.

And the hosts of a film in which she stars say she has been blocked from attending its Washington premiere tonight. The film sharply criticizes Chinese human rights practices and is being presented by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

"We were informed by the organization that she would not be able to attend tonight," Marion Smith, a spokesperson for the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, said on Wednesday.

Smith said that pageant officials hadn't passed on messages to her, despite assurances that they would.

"Their stated reason is that they have rehearsals and they were unable to release her to attend," Smith said.



American news reports say Anastasia Lin is not allowed to speak with the media this time around. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lin, a Chinese-born actress and classically trained pianist, has posted on Twitter and Facebook about human rights conditions in China, especially regarding the Falun Gong meditation system. The Falun Gong is outlawed in China.

Amnesty International is among the human rights groups that has widely reported abuse of Falun Gong practitioners in China.

On Facebook and Twitter, she has posted clips from her film, The Bleeding Edge, in which she plays a Falun Gong practitioner who's locked up and tortured for her beliefs. The organization sponsored the premiere.

She has also accused the Chinese government online of illegally harvesting organs from Falun Gong practitioners.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Newspaper won't stand by Santa story

The Associated Press published a story, relying on information from the Knoxville News-Sentinel, about a man portraying Santa Claus who says a terminally ill boy died in his arms.

The paper now says that it cannot verify the man's story and no longer stands by it.

The story, published in the News-Sentinel on Sunday was about Eric Schmitt-Matzen,

who said he had promised to protect the identities of the child's family.

In a story posted online, editor Jack McElroy and columnist Sam Venable said Schmitt-Matzen's story "remains unverified."

They wrote that they could not determine whether his account was accurate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canadians finally getting Prime time on Amazon

STREAMING VIDEO

What to watch now the service has launched in Canada

It isn't fair — that has to be what the Canadian broadcast competition is saying now that Amazon Prime Video is officially here. Enjoyed for years in the U.S., Britain and elsewhere, Amazon is a streaming service not unlike Netflix.

Like Netflix, Amazon has courted and partnered with seasoned storytellers and is in business with the best. Canadians got a taste of what all the fuss was about when *Transparent* and *Mozart in the Jungle* were reasons to subscribe to Shomi. Once that service pulled the plug, the clock began ticking as to when Amazon would crack the Canadian market.

That day has arrived. First out of the gate is *The Grand Tour*, a reality motoring series starring notorious *Top Gear* trio Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May. Beyond that show, here's a tour of some Amazon originals Canadians will want to test drive:

FLEABAG:

Phoebe Waller-Bridge dares you to look away. Based on her one-woman play, this six-part British series has pitch-perfect black comedy. It stars Waller-Bridge as an audaciously unlikable young woman trying



The Vancouver-filmed *The Man in the High Castle* is one of the Amazon originals Canadians will want to test drive on Amazon Prime Video. COURTESY AMAZON

to survive the mean streets of modern London.

RED OAKS:

Set in the '80s, *Red Oaks* is about a young college student who works summers as a tennis pro at the snooty Red Oaks Country Club. Stealing scenes is Canadian Ennis Esmer (*The Listener*) who aces his role as the club's charm-dog tennis pro. "Not a sendup of the 1980s," wrote the *New York Times*, "but a surprisingly straightforward extension of the genre." Season 2 is even better.

THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE:

Shot in Vancouver, *The Man*

in the *High Castle* spent a year as the best show filmed in Canada that Canadians couldn't (legally) see. The premise is an instant grabber: suppose Hitler had won. The drama is set in the early '60s with the U.S. divided on both coasts by Germany and Japan. Season 2 has just begun.

CRISIS IN SIX SCENES:

Woody Allen stooping to television? Well, Amazon offered complete creative control. It is no *Annie Hall*. Miley Cyrus is more *Whiny Cyrus* as a '60s activist. Allen the actor gamely tries to revive his cowardly, nervous movie shtick, but the real delight is seeing Elaine May

shake off the rust.

GOOD GIRLS REVOLT:

Still seeking that *Mad Men* fix? *Good Girls Revolt* comes close. The series follows a group of young newsmagazine researchers as the women's movement gains momentum in the late '60s. Toronto-born Chris Diamantopoulos (*Silicon Valley*) is their workaholic editor.

ONE MISSISSIPPI:

Fans familiar with stand-up comedian Tig Notaro will want to explore *One Mississippi*. The "traumedy" finds Notaro confronting her family's shocking secrets as well as her mortality.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DATA BREACH

Over billion Yahoo accounts hacked

Yahoo says it believes hackers stole data from more than one billion user accounts in August 2013, in what is thought to be the largest data breach at an email provider.

The California company was also home to what's now most likely the second largest hack in history, one that exposed 500 million Yahoo accounts. The company disclosed that breach in September. Yahoo said it hasn't identified the intrusion associated with this theft.

Yahoo says the information stolen may include names, email addresses, phone numbers, birthdates and security questions and answers. It believes bank-account information and payment-card data were not affected.

But the company said hackers may have also stolen passwords from the affected accounts. Technically, those passwords should be secure, Yahoo said they were scrambled twice — once by encryption and once by

another technique called hashing. But hackers have become adept at cracking secured passwords by assembling huge dictionaries of similarly scrambled phrases and matching them against stolen password databases. That could mean trouble for any users who reused their Yahoo password for other online accounts.

The new hack revelation raises fresh questions about Verizon's \$4.8 billion US proposed acquisition of Yahoo, and whether the big mobile carrier will seek to modify or abandon its bid. If the hacks cause a user backlash against Yahoo, the company's services wouldn't be as valuable to Verizon. The telecom giant wants Yahoo and its many users to help it build a digital ad business.

Yahoo said Wednesday that it is requiring users to change their passwords and invalidating security questions so they can't be used to hack into accounts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ashley Madison's parent pays \$1.6M in settlements

The parent company of infidelity dating site Ashley Madison said it has reached settlements in an investigation led by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. Ruby Corp. said it has paid more than \$1.6 million US, with half the money going to the FTC and half to the states participating in the probe.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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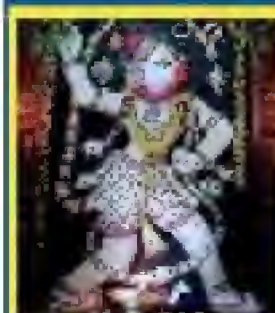
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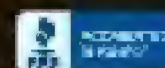
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VICKY MOCHAMA

Look out, Silicon Valley, Canada Post wants in on the action

A House of Commons committee on Tuesday made recommendations for the future of Canada Post. There are dozens, some of which are things one hopes they're currently doing such as number 38: "Canada Post focus on its core competencies to help Canada meet the challenges of the 21st century."

However, the idea that caught my eye is a suggestion that the company create a "free digital infrastructure," which might mean "providing the basis for a Canadian social network." The committee's actual recommendations don't get into what that looks like or means but I think it's worth exploring.

Canada Post is, for example, ideally suited to run a Canadian version of Tinder. Using a combination of their near-pristine location data, Facebook profiles and types of mail received, Canadians might start hooking up courtesy of the nation's mail delivery service. Imagine the stories. "Kids, I met your grandfather when he swiped right on my profile because he saw that I was a skier who regularly sent express mail."

The marriage rate has been in decline for a while. With a Canada Post dating service (PostDates? Mail and Tail? Just thinking aloud here), we could turn things around for the nation's beleaguered single people.

That may not work for people who are already married unless Canada Post is

willing to compete with Ashley Madison.

For Canadians who are already coupled up, Canada Post could run a Snapchat-like service for couples worried whether their Christmas presents will arrive in time. Rather than a tracking number that says that your package has been in Mississauga for far too long, couples can get filtered pictures of their packages as they travel the country. Nothing adds a frisson to marriage like watching a box with a flower crown make its way to your mother-in-law. The excitement is hard to contain.

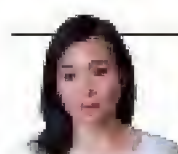
According to a 2011 piece by the Toronto Star, more than 18,000 wallets end up in Canada Post's Undeliverable Mail Offices. The company tries to reunite them with their owners. Other items, however, are sold off or destroyed after seven months. What if they ran a ChatRoulette-style services for those pieces? Just log in, press a button and you can get seven-months-late invoice from a dentist's office in Lethbridge. Or you could get a hand-stitched quilt from someone's grandmother. Sounds like a lottery with only winners to me.

As the business of mail continues to shift dramatically, it's worth putting every idea on the table. For some, physical mail is a relic of the past but for others, it is still an essential need. A Canada Post with a strong and smart digital presence could marry both worlds.

REFLECTION

Ending hate is on all of us

On Wednesday morning, Metro staffer Irene Kuan was the target of a racist remark hurled by a fellow transit rider. She has spent her whole life living and working in Toronto, and this was a first.



Irene Kuan
Metro | Toronto

"Go back to Hong Kong," a raspy voice of a man shouted at me, as I was about to exit the subway Wednesday morning.

It was so out of nowhere that the words didn't even register with me until about five minutes later, when I was outside Union Station in downtown Toronto.

The first thing I actually thought about upon stepping out into the elements was the extreme cold weather alert that had been issued for the city that morning. But then it dawned on me: I'd been the target of a random verbal racist attack.

Working as I do in the news industry, I've been aware of the recent surge in public acts of racism, both in this country and in the United States — pro-"white people" posters on lightposts, spray-painted swastikas, verbal assaults of hijab-wearing women. But, as a Canadian-born Chinese journalist, I'd never really thought about it happening to me.

And then it did. A random person told me to go back to a place I'm not even from. And, at some point in the aftermath, it occurred to me that, no, this actually had happened to me before.

This past summer I was driving down an empty dirt road with my boyfriend in a ghost town called Vroomanton, northwest of Sunderland, Ont., when we suddenly saw a random flash of a middle finger from a Caucasian couple speeding by us on a motorcycle. Then, too, I had a delayed reaction. I realize now that in the moment I was more concerned about being presumptuous, about the possibility of taking offence to a gesture that, perhaps, was not as it had seemed. Others have since told me they'd be outraged if had been in my shoes.

Now, hours after the latest



Irene Kuan, Metro's managing editor, digital, stands on a Toronto subway platform.

LANCE MCMILLAN/FOR METRO

incident, when I think back to the words that man said to me, I really don't know how to react. I'm not angry or upset, just surprised that it happened. Because it's 2016.

Both times, I found myself asking why I had been targeted. I was just going about my own business. I didn't do anything to provoke anybody. Why had the mere sight of me incited in perfect strangers so much spontaneous hate that they felt compelled to act out so randomly and viciously?

I know there's no logical answer; it's a senseless act. What, beyond acknowledging that an awful thing has happened, can I really say or do?

These experiences have led me think of the story of Stephanie Kim, a Toronto woman who was subjected to racial slurs standing in line at a TD bank back in November of this year. In recalling the event to the Toronto Star, Kim said that not even

the bank staff, let alone her fellow patrons, came to her defence as a man standing behind her in line called her a "chink." (By the way, Kim is Korean, not Chinese.)

Kim said that, more than the insults themselves, the staff's passive attitude when she complained about the man is what made her feel like a second-class citizen.

It's easy to see that the proliferation of these incidents is the natural by-product of the current political climate, in which some have

been led to believe that phrases like "Make America Great Again" and "Canadian Values" are open invitations to promote, and directly express, bigotry and racism.

It's disappointing enough that there are people out there who, having apparently confused their resentment-fuelled desire to spew hate speech with their constitutional right to free speech, act out like this in public.

But even worse is that, collectively, we seem not yet to have realized how dangerous it is to stand by and accept hateful vitriol directed at others. In this way, our society normalizes hatred and resentment. And that's not any one individual's problem.

Neither the victim nor the perpetrator of racist violence, verbal or otherwise, should be expected to assume full responsibility for what all of us should be calling by its true name — hate — and fighting against whenever, wherever and however it appears.

“
Why had the mere sight of me incited so much spontaneous hate?”

Metro ain't having it

Have you recently seen, heard or been the target of racist outbursts in your community? If so, how did you address it? How do you wish you addressed it? Tell us all about it. Tweet using the hashtag #ainthavingit or email us: readers@metronews.ca

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Drunk in a car: how did I get here?

PLAN AHEAD

The holidays see many cases of impaired driving

Nina Dragicevic

Believe it or not, if you're driving drunk, getting caught by the cops is one of the best things that could happen to you.

"If (a driver) fails the breath sample, they would be advised that they're under arrest, they would be handcuffed and taken to one of our stations where they would be processed for driving over 0.08 alcohol content and driving impaired," says Constable Rob Carver, public information officer for the Winnipeg Police Service. Then your case would be turned over to the courts.

The alternative options? Crashing into something and causing thousands of dollars of damage, injuring yourself, injuring your car occupants, injuring others in another car — or killing yourself and/or killing others. All things considered, an arrest before you do any of these things is the best scenario.

How did you get here in the first place? Don't leave the decision-making up to a drunk version of yourself — force your sober self to make plans in advance. Here's how to take control:

Plan to take a cab and have the number in your phone. Stash your keys in a predetermined location when you arrive. Tell your friends and hosts that you've parked your car and you will either be cabbing home or crashing for the night. Anoint a designated driver — if everyone pitches in \$5 to the DD for the night, it's a nice reward to them for the service.

And never, ever get into a car with someone who has been drinking — even if they insist that they feel fine.

"We go to a lot of funerals for people who got into cars with somebody who said they were OK to drive," says Melody Bodnarchuk, Winnipeg and area chapter past president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). "Don't do it. It's not worth it."

Bodnarchuk adds that the holidays are "a very difficult time" for victims and families of impaired driving, and encourages victims to email MADD Winnipeg's victims services volunteer at VSVwinnipeg@gmail.com. Visit maddchapters.ca/winnipeg for more.



Force your sober self to make plans in advance — so you don't leave it up to the drunk version of yourself. ISTOCK

A host with the most — responsibility

The holidays are a time of gatherings and togetherness with loved ones — but you shouldn't be gathered around hospital waiting rooms and police stations. It's startling how quickly a family celebration can turn to devastation.

The holiday season brings numerous factors together — less daylight and longer nights, poor weather and highway conditions and, of course, many holiday gatherings with office colleagues, friends and families, where drinking is practically de rigueur.

"Drinking isn't the problem," Melody Bodnarchuk, Winnipeg and area chapter past president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) says, "drinking and driving is the problem."

If you are hosting a holiday party, your responsibilities are far greater than party platters and parlour games.

"One of the things is to not over-serve your guests and be aware of what they are drinking," Bodnarchuk says. "So you yourself need to keep sober enough, and to be vigilant. One



Throwing a holiday party? Make sure your guests drink responsibly. ISTOCK

of the tricks to know is that switching drinks does increase intoxication — for instance beer, liquor, then back to beer, then wine — switching drinks like that."

Other hosting tips include: have food readily available; avoid overly salty snacks, as these can encourage drinking; offer non-alcoholic drinks throughout; stop serving alco-

hol an hour before the party ends; serve coffee and tea before guests depart; and offer spare rooms, futons and sofas for guests to spend the night. And, of course, you're respon-

sible for the final check at the door.

"Offer to call them a cab, or if you yourself are sober, offer to take them home," Bodnarchuk says.

+ MOCKTAILS

Having non-alcoholic beverages readily available will reduce how much alcohol your guests consume during the evening. Create an eye-catching display of champagne flutes on a decorative platter, filled with "mocktails", sparkling juices or homemade holiday punch. Have lots of ice available. Guests will be tempted to pick up one of these fresh beverages and less likely to get continuous refills of wine, beer or liquor.

Try this Sparkling Apple Cider Punch, by Nancy Fuller, from FoodNetwork.ca:

Combine 2 (750 mL) bottles sparkling apple cider, 3 cups orange juice and 2 cups cranberry juice in a large, festive punch bowl. Slice two oranges into rounds and let them float on top. Have pretty glasses available and serve chilled over ice.



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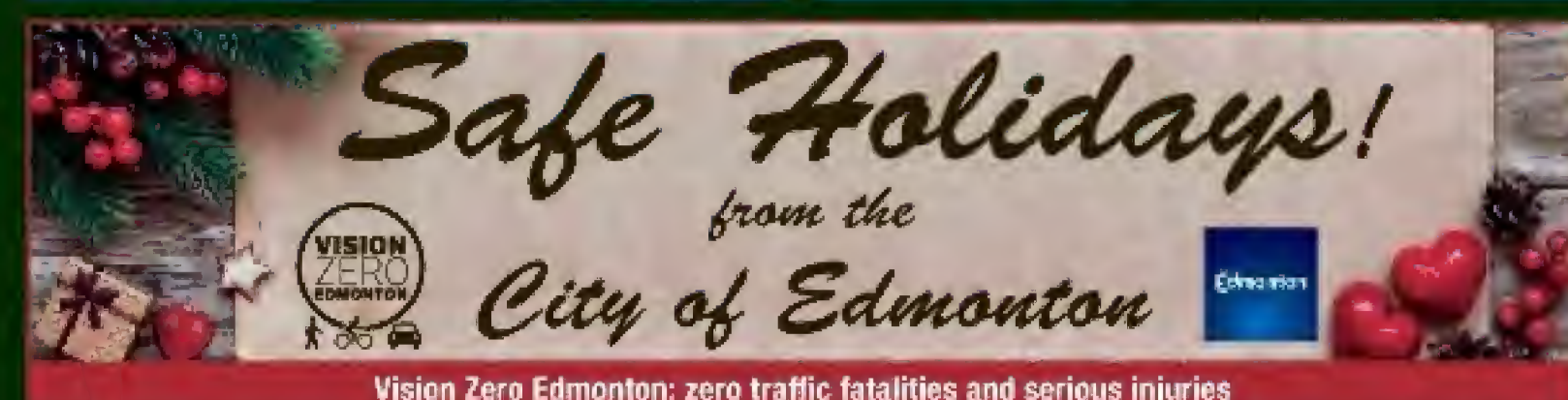


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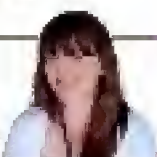
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CULTURE

Group rituals bind a society together, says religion prof

Megan Haynes
For Metro Canada



Almeera Ismail adores Christmas.

The 30-year-old Vancouver native goes all out: homemade cards, festive cookies, gifts for her nieces, a small tree.

But as a Muslim, Ismail didn't start celebrating until she was in high school when she and her sisters convinced their parents to let them get a Christmas tree. When she went to university in Ottawa, her love of the holiday grew.

"It was when I moved away — and you reach for things that make you feel homey or ground you — that I started to really get into Christmas and the spirit of being around friends and family over the holidays," she says. When her sister entered an inter-faith relationship with a Christian man and the pair had a baby,

Loving Christmas when you're not Christian



Vancouver's Almeera Ismail goes all out for Christmas: she bakes festive cookies, decorates a tree and buys gifts for family. As a Muslim, her love of the holiday grew when she moved to Ottawa as a student, "and you reach for things that make you feel homey or ground you." JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO; INSET: COURTESY ALMEERA ISMAIL

even Ismail's parents came on board the holiday trend. Now, the whole family celebrates on Christmas Eve, exchanging presents and feasting.

Increasingly, people of all faiths and backgrounds are tuning into Christmas in some form.

A 2011 study by Ottawa-based Abacus, which polled just over 1,000 people, found of the 92 per cent of respondents who said they celebrate the holidays, 52 per cent do not

consider themselves Christian.

There are a couple factors at play here, says Christopher Helland, professor of religion in contemporary culture at Dalhousie University. First, as a society, we're becoming more secular. In 2011, Statistics Canada found a quarter of the population said they had no religious affiliation, up from 16 per cent in 2001. Second, we're seeing more people from other faiths arrive in the country: from the last census, 8.8

per cent of the population is of a non-Christian faith, up from 4.8% a decade earlier.

As a result of this shift, society has moved towards a more inclusive season, opting for phrasing like "Happy Holidays," Helland says.

That has offended some people: "Some groups are very upset about that. (They) feel taking the Christ out of Christmas isn't a good thing," he says. However, the shift towards a less religious-filled holiday has

made it more acceptable of people of other faiths to participate however they want.

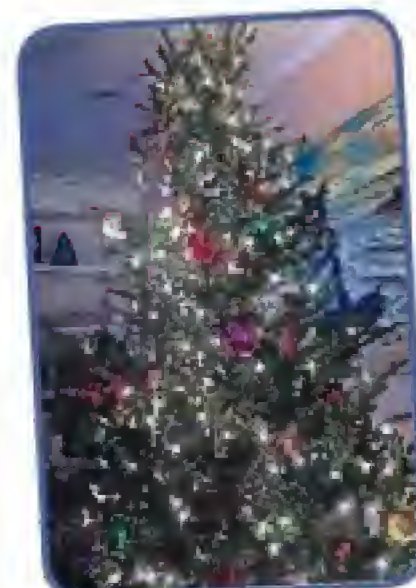
While there are some culturally imposed traditions, such as spending time with family, trees and gift giving, for those of different faith backgrounds wanting to celebrate, it's a great opportunity to build in new rituals without some of the pressures others might face.

"Sometimes the beliefs behind the rituals change, or

adapt, take on different meaning. But we certainly like to do the ritual — they are important," Helland says. In fact, allowing the tradition to change and adapt to be more inclusive can help be a bridge in society, he says.

It's not a new idea: an early sociologist, Emile Durkheim, said at the turn of the 20th century that in the absence of a religious tie, in a modernist society these group rituals become the things that bind a society together.

"It's pushed on us pretty heavily that 'This is the holidays, this where you do the gift giving and be with family,'" says Helland "It's hard to not be part of that if you're part of our society and culture."





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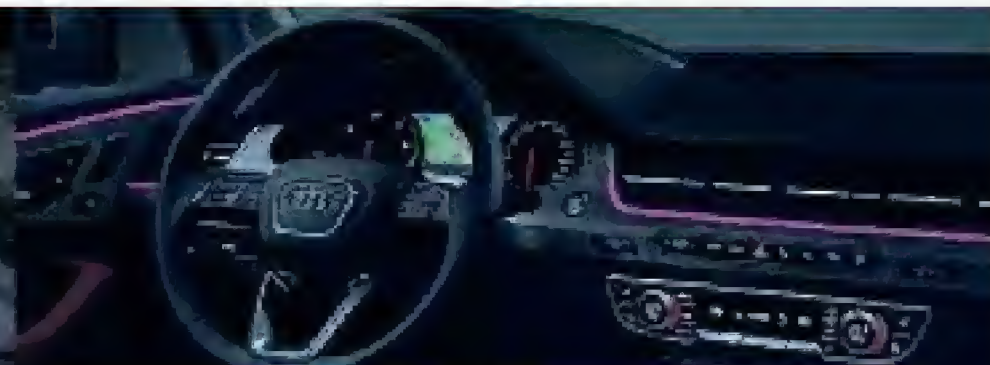
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Read all about it — best of 2016

Loading up on books is an easy way to get through the gift-buying Christmas season. But, where to start? Right here. We highlight some of the year's finest reads. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

BESTSELLERS

The Nest by Cynthia d'Aprix Sweeney, Ecco

This story about four siblings, the Plumb family, squabbling over a trust fund they're weeks away from inheriting, garnered attention even before this debut book was published.

In A Dark, Dark Wood by Ruth Ware, Simon & Schuster

A psychological drama about a woman invited to a bachelorette party for an old friend, held in a glass house deep in a forest. Ware's got another crime thriller coming out in Canada at the beginning of January: *The Woman in Cabin 10*.

The Couple Next Door by Shari Lapena, Doubleday Canada

Reminiscent of the Madeleine McCann story — in this thriller a couple head next door to their neighbours' for dinner, leaving their six-month-old baby sleeping in her cot. Every parent's worst nightmare is tackled in this gripping read.

Still Mine by Amy Stuart, Simon & Schuster

Toronto writer Stuart debuted with a tense thriller about a woman who escapes an abusive husband by creating an elaborate exit. Here's the idea: Clare, on the run from her husband and her own life,

shows up in a remote town and asks about Shayna, a girl who's gone missing. No one in the town knows anything about Clare, but everyone has a secret.



COFFEE TABLE BOOKS

The Art of Movement

Photographs of dancers from modern ballet companies — New York City Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Royal Danish Ballet, Royal Ballet, among others — taken by photographers Ken Browar and Deborah Ory. Close-up photos of toes en pointe, bulging calf muscles, to stop motion images of a leap, to portraits of two dancers wrapped around each other are accompanied by inspirational words from dancers, choreographers.

Pounce

Seth Casteel's pictures of animals have become a global phenomenon. *Pounce* is for the cat lover — or kitten lover, to be accurate. This book follows in the footsteps of his others featuring astonishing shots of kittens pouncing: in mid-air.

Fashion Designers A-Z

Part history, part photography book, part encyclopedia, this substantial — and very beautiful — volume by Valerie Steele is stunning in both its breadth and detail featuring items from the permanent collection of the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Containing entries on everyone from Giorgio Armani to Vivienne Westwood, there are also essays on the rise of the fashion museum helping to explain our interest and providing context.

The Art of Blues

The music might be the initial draw — but the art that accompanied the rise of the blues throughout the 20th century also tracks social history (generic LP covers, for example, were the only way albums could be displayed in segregated southern record stores). From liner notes and record sleeves to posters and promo photos, Bill Dahl introduces us to the earliest recordings from piano great Eubie Blake to the three kings — Albert, BB and Freddie.



INTERESTS

Les Diners de Gala, Salvador Dali

Quirky? Love art? Yes, it's a Salvador Dali cookbook. This one has recipes that have all been tested, although it might take someone brave to try some of them.

The Joyful Living Colouring Book by Teva Harrison

For those who haven't yet embraced the adult colouring book phenomenon, this is a lovely way to ease into it. The images are on one side of the page only, so suitable for framing.

Canoes: A Natural History in North America by Mark Neuzil and Norman Sims

Canoe ephemera is sprinkled throughout this book which documents the evolution of this particular form of transportation by indigenous peoples, its influence on North American settlers and even a look at canoe tripping throughout the centuries.

1000 Places to See in the United States and Canada Before You Die by Patricia Schultz

For the armchair traveller or inveterate planner it has plenty of pictures and descriptions, with recommendations of places to stay and eat, what to see, and price points.



A Taste of Haida Gwaii, by Susan Musgrave

Poet Susan Musgrave lives on Haida Gwaii (formerly known as the Queen Charlotte Islands) and operates a bed and breakfast there. She's made a study and cuisine of the local food and shares stories on everything from foraging for mushrooms to making jams to how recipes came about.

FOR THE LITTLE ONES

Sleep Tight Farm: A Farm Prepares for Winter, by Eugenie Doyle, illustrated by Becca Stadlander

Doyle celebrates the tasks that go into preparing a small farm for winter in this engaging book. The whole family pitches in to cover strawberry beds, fortify beehives, stock the farm stand and more.

They All Saw a Cat, written and illustrated by Brendan Wenzel

How strange vision is! Wenzel observes in this account of how differently various creatures see a cat. With rhythmic, lilting text and art "rendered in almost everything imaginable" (the artist says), Wenzel changes the perspectives of all viewers.

The Steadfast Tin Soldier, by Hans Christian Andersen, retold and illustrated by JooHee Yoon

In this tale of devotion and fiery union, a toy soldier loses his love — a doll — when he falls out the window, but his subsequent journey finally leads him home and the two are united forever.

The Great Antonio, written and illustrated by Elise Gravel

Gravel comically and poignantly celebrates this Croatian immigrant to Canada with stylish graphics and respect for Antonio's power and vulnerabilities.

Book Uncle and Me, written by Uma Krishnaswami, with illustrations by Julianna Swaney

Every day, Yasmin borrows a book from Book Uncle, who's set up a free library. But when the city demands he buy a business licence, he has to close. What can Yasmin do?



3 ROCKING READS FOR THE MUSIC LOVER IN YOUR LIFE

It's only rock 'n' roll but we like it — and equally we like reading about the inside story of performers, songs and scenes. Here are page turners for groovers and movers alike.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

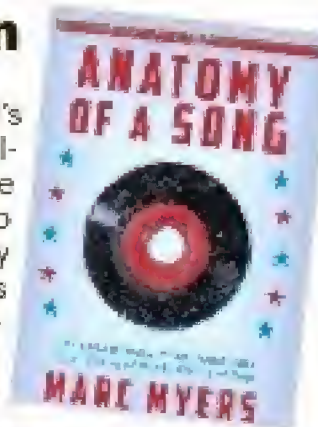
1 Interview

David Bowie: The Last Interview and Other Conversations is a series of 10 interviews with David Bowie begins in 1964 when he was 16 and still David Jones (as a spokesperson for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Long-Haired Men on BBC Tonight); his last was in 2006 with Ricky Gervais, a jokey exchange to promote Bowie's appearance on Gervais's show *Extras*. In 2004 Bowie had a heart attack on stage, after which he stopped performing and giving interviews. But during the preceding 40 decades he had an open relationship with the press, as this collection attests.



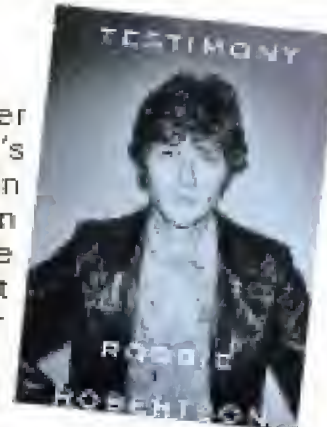
2 Compilation

The Wall Street Journal's *Anatomy of a Song* column is built on a simple idea — that we all want to know the real story, told by insiders, about the songs we love. Marc Myers' collection of those columns, ***Anatomy of a Song: The Oral History of 45 Iconic Hits That Changed Rock, R & B and Pop***, includes Mick Jagger describing what inspired him to write *Moonlight Mile* in 1971; sometimes we hear from several people (songwriter, background singers, producer and lead singer), as with Gladys Knight's *Midnight Train to Georgia*. The collection spans the period 1951 (Lloyd Price's *Lawdy Miss Clawdy*) to 1991 (R.E.M.'s *Losing My Religion*).



3 Memoir

Guitarist/songwriter Robbie Robertson's memoir, five years in the writing, begins in 1960 when he was age 16 and on a train out of Toronto headed for Arkansas for an audition with Ronnie Hawkins's rockabilly crew. It swings back to Robertson's youth in Toronto, then careens forward through his years with the Hawks, touring with Bob Dylan in 1966, the creation of The Band and, finally, making *The Last Waltz* in 1976, marking the end of an era. Stay tuned for a second volume.

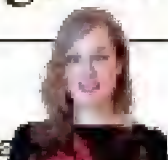


She had 'brains, beauty and breeches'

INTERVIEW

Canada's Aloha Wanderwell was first woman to drive the globe

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



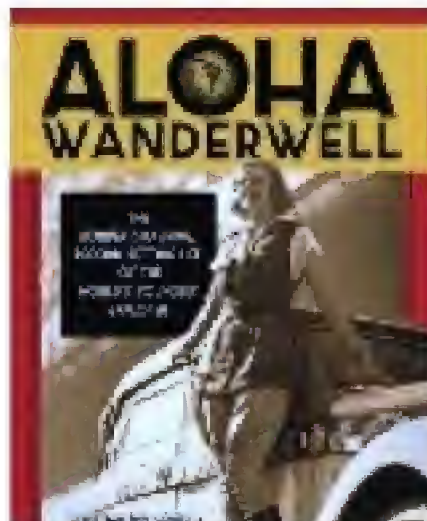
With her blond ringlets, Kewpie-doll lips and statuesque height, Aloha Wanderwell could be a Hollywood invention, leaning against a Ford Model-T, all sass and swagger. But what her 1920s publicity photo doesn't reveal — and what has, for the most part, been buried in history — is that at the age of 16, Wanderwell embarked on an adventure that, among her many records, would make her the first woman to drive around the world, covering 380,000 miles and 80 countries before the age of 30.

Back in 1998, Vancouver television producer Randolph Eustace-Wallace, co-author of the

book Aloha Wanderwell: The Border-Smashing, Record-Setting Life of the World's Youngest Explorer, was using the brand-new Google search engine to research his own adventure when he stumbled onto her story.

Eustace-Wallace was looking for information on driving around the world when his cousin called from Ontario needing help with travel plans to Hawaii. He entered "Aloha Airlines" into Google, which mixed with his online search for driving, and up popped a story about Wanderwell. Intrigued, he saved the link, but it wasn't until a couple years later, when he partnered with journalist Christian Fink-Jensen, his co-author on Aloha Wanderwell, did their decade of detective work begin in earnest.

At this point, the duo didn't know that Wanderwell was originally named Idris Hall, born in Winnipeg in 1906, or that her husband had been jailed as a German spy (and later murdered). None of that is mentioned in her 1939 ghostwritten autobiography, Call To Adventure.



"The ghostwriter tarted it up, and added a lot of fiction, made it more melodramatic," says Eustace-Wallace. "When we first read it, we thought, 'It's too bad she's such a terrible writer,' but as it turns out, she was incredible."

Wanderwell's story is so incredible it doesn't require embellishment. In 1922, while the bored teenager was attending school, she answered an ad looking for women with "Brains, Beauty & Breeches" to accompany Captain Ralph Wanderwell — whom she would eventually

marry — as a driver and secretary on his international expeditions.

"For 10 years, their escapades were front-page news," says Eustace-Wallace. And yet, he and Fink-Jensen found plenty of conflicting information during their arduous research process, mainly because Wanderwell had reinvented her own personal history. "It's difficult to tell a non-fiction story about someone who tried to keep their life under wraps," he says.

As it turns out, the key to unlocking Aloha's mystery was Wanderwell's children. In order to gain access to films produced by Wanderwell that had been bequeathed to the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian, Eustace-Wallace and Fink-Jensen needed permission from her two offspring. When Valri, who lived in Honolulu at the time, discovered that the two writers were Canadian, she embraced their request. As it turns out, she and her brother Nile, now in their 80s, had been raised on Vancouver Island, and still had fond memories of their early years.



Forgotten Canadian adventurer Aloha Wanderwell. CONTRIBUTED

The writers and children became close. During one trip to Honolulu, Valri appeared with a dusty tin box she had recently discovered that was labelled with her mother's initials. Eustace-Wallace picked the lock and discovered the "Rosetta Stone": Wanderwell's original passport containing every border crossing (many of which were contrary to

other reports), her logbooks and a draft of an unpublished memoir. They had all the details needed to shed light on one of Canada's most incredible adventurers. As Eustace-Wallace concludes, "It's the story of someone who was lost to history, and shouldn't be."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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GRAPHIC NOVEL

Annoyed Hook Jaw a rip-off of Jaws

Hook Jaw

By: Si Spurrier and Conor Boyle
Publisher: Titan Comics
(\$3.99)

Mike Donachie
Metro | Canada

Imagine a comic book so violent that it caused a national controversy in the U.K., including hysterical condemnations in the national press and an eventual ban by its own publisher.

Now move forward 40 years, and imagine if it came back, written by an alumnus of zombie horror porn series *Crossed*. That's *Hook Jaw*, a new ongoing series that has its first issue this week.

The title character is a great white shark, and a blatant rip-off of *Jaws*, because that's how British comics worked in the 1970s. But this shark, as the name suggests, has a vicious hook embedded in its mouth, leaving it enormously annoyed with everyone and crazed with blood lust.

Hook Jaw first appeared in *Ac-*



tion, an anthology so controversial that it only lasted 26 issues. The original strip was pretty much a series of grisly deaths, but now it has added plot in a five-issue series written by magnificent horrorist Si Spurrier.

The carnage takes place off Somalia, and apparently involves pirates, the U.S. Navy and some scientists. But I'll be rooting for *Hook Jaw*, making a welcome return.

BOOK BRIEFS

No pictures but Novak is back with a new release

B.J. Novak is back to his old tricks. The actor and million-selling author is following up his beloved, all-words *The Book with No Pictures* with *The Alphabet Book with No Pictures*, Penguin Young Readers said on Tuesday.

The new work, which Penguin calls a "non-trad-

itional" approach to teaching kids about language, is scheduled for publication next September.

In a statement issued through his publisher, Novak said he wanted young people to think of words as "funny, exciting and powerful." Novak has also written the story collection *One More Thing*.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Amy Schumer Live sees the comedic tackles gender parity norms and distilling them to their essence. CONTRIBUTED



JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

A sex comic with a difference

THE SHOW: Amy Schumer Live at the Apollo (HBO) Dec. 15
THE MOMENT: Debunking the label

"I'm labeled a sex comic," Amy Schumer says on stage. She wears a short black dress and tall nude pumps, and swigs from a wine bottle. "I think it's because I'm a girl. A guy could get up here and literally pull his [junk] out and everyone would be like, 'He's a thinker.'"

"I think sex is explained in-

correctly as far as men's and women's roles go," she continues. "We're told over and over, 'Men love sex, women just deal with it.' Every sitcom, the guy gets home from work: 'Honey, how 'bout tonight?' And she's always, 'Bleah,' laundry, laundry."

"It's insane," Schumer concludes. "Every girl I know loves having sex. But you're made to feel disgusting and weird. What girl would say, 'No, I don't want to feel the one good thing we're

allowed as humans?'"

I'm editing a bit here. Schumer says those lines, but she surrounds them with unprintable tangents, about how she has to treat artists' erections like soufflés and other such bawdiness. And while you're laughing at the raunch, she's sneaking in the feminism.

Schumer is a sex comic in one important regard: because she's made sex the final, funniest battleground in the gender-parity wars. She repeatedly

tackles it on her series, but in this one-hour special she distills it to its essence.

Its essence is this: Women are allowed to feel everything men are, because women are people. That's the truly shocking thing about Schumer's routine — it's nearly 2017, and that idea still feels subversive.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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LEGACY

Sporting icons pay tribute to Thicke

Canadian entertainer Alan Thicke — a longtime sports fan with a strong connection to the hockey world — was remembered fondly by the sports community Wednesday.

Thicke, from Kirkland Lake, Ont., died Tuesday at age 69. Hockey legend and longtime friend Wayne Gretzky offered his thoughts in a post on Twitter.

"Janet & I are deeply saddened to hear of Alan's passing. He was a wonderful man, father, husband and friend. He will be missed by all. RIP Alan," Gretzky tweeted.

A photo of the actor with Gretzky, Phil Esposito and Gordie Howe — all wearing all-star uniforms — was posted on the NHL's Twitter feed.

"In addition to being a passionate fan, Alan was an energetic participant in many of our events, including all-star, charity games and awards shows," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said in a statement. "He frequently attended games, and was with us as recently as September's World Cup."

"Alan always displayed humour and grace and he will be greatly missed. We send condolences to Alan's wife, Tanya, and the rest of his family as well

as to his countless friends and the multitudes he entertained."

Thicke told MLB.com last year that he named his youngest son Carter, after former Blue Jays great Joe Carter and former Montreal Expos catcher Gary Carter.

"I was sitting in the bathtub," Thicke said. "We knew that we were having a boy and we were wrestling with a name and what would we do. And then I'm watching a documentary on the sports channel about Canadian baseball heroes ... and sure enough, Joe Carter, for hitting those home runs, and Gary Carter, being a great Expo catcher."

"And I said, 'Eureka!' Out of the tub and we have a name for the kid."

Joe Carter said Thicke shared that story with him when they met at a golf tournament a few years ago in Las Vegas. They became friends and Thicke often participated in Carter's annual charity golf tournament in the Toronto area.

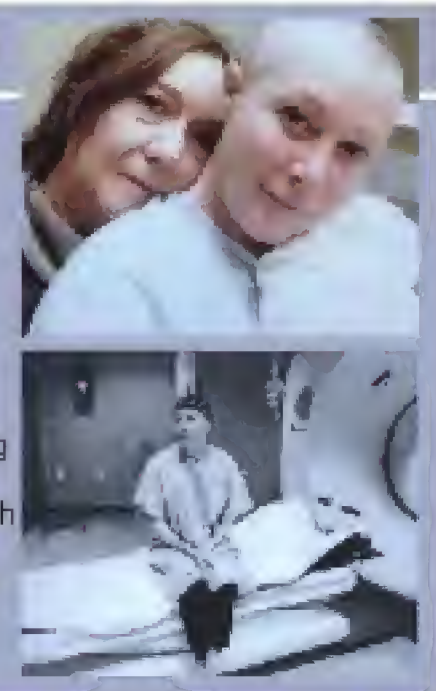
"Our lives are better because of him," Carter said Wednesday from Kansas City. "My life is better because of him. I mean, he put a smile on my face. Those are things that I'll always remember." THE CANADIAN PRESS

CELEBS ON INSTA

Doherty opens up on fight

Shannen Doherty is giving an up-close look at her fight against breast cancer.

The former Beverly Hills, 90210 actress shared an Instagram photo Tuesday of herself in a hospital gown alongside her mother. She wrote that she was undergoing another day of radiation adding, "Today my mom came with me because Even though I'm so tired after, I'm going Christmas shopping!!!" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/INSTAGRAM/THESHANDO



Manchester storms back with Screen Actors nods

NOMINATIONS

La La Land hits wrong note as Guild opts for Affleck and co.

La La Land may have hit all the right notes for the Golden Globes, but the Screen Actors Guild sang a different tune Wednesday, when Kenneth Lonergan's New England-set family drama Manchester by the Sea picked up the most nominations. Its leading four nods included best ensemble cast, best actor for Casey Affleck and best supporting performances for Michelle Williams and Lucas Hedges.

Barry Jenkins' coming-of-age tale Moonlight and Denzel Washington's August Wilson adaptation Fences followed with three each, including ensemble. They'll be competing with the fact-based NASA crowd-pleaser Hidden Figures and the family drama Captain Fantastic. Shut out of the coveted ensemble award was Damien Chazelle's candy-coloured musical La La Land, which scored nominations only for its leads, Emma Stone and London, Ont.-native Ryan Gosling.

Sophia Bush and Common announced the nominees early Wednesday morning in West Hollywood, California.

In the past, SAG nominees have served as helpful predictors of who will land nominations in the four Oscar acting categories.

While some categories looked generally as expected, like the supporting actress nods for Williams, Fences' Viola Davis, Moonlight's Naomi Harris, Lion's Nicole Kidman and Hidden Figures' Octavia Spencer, others were quite surprising.

In the lead actress category, Annette Bening failed to pick

up a nomination for 20th Century Women. Bening had been an assumed lock for an Oscar nomination and had been considered a top contender against front-runners Natalie Portman (Jackie) and Stone (La La Land), both of whom were recognized. Instead, SAG nominated Emily Blunt for the adapted thriller The Girl on the Train, which scored tepid reviews from critics and had not been seen as a major awards contender. Meryl Streep (Florence Foster Jenkins) and Amy Adams (Arrival) were also nominated.

Lead actors nominated were Affleck, Gosling, Andrew Garfield (Hacksaw Ridge), Viggo Mortensen (Captain Fantastic) and Denzel Washington (Fences).

On the supporting side for actors, Moonlight's Mahershala Ali continues to dominate the category with another nomination. He'll be competing against Manchester's Hedges, Jeff Bridges for Hell or High Water, Dev Patel for Lion and Hugh Grant for Florence Foster Jenkins.

Also missing were nominations for Jeff Nichols' fact-based civil rights film Loving and its leads Ruth Negga and Joel Edgerton, as well as for French actress Isabelle Huppert, who has won many of the critics' awards for her performance in the edgy Elle.

On the television side, series newcomers The Crown, Westworld and Stranger Things all picked up three nominations each, alongside Emmys favourite The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story and Game of Thrones. Both Winona Ryder and Millie Bobby Brown will be up against one another in the same acting category for Netflix's Stranger Things.

The 23rd annual Screen Actors Guild Awards take place Jan. 29 from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Michelle Williams was nominated for best supporting actress for Manchester By the Sea while Moonlight's Mahershala Ali also made the cut for supporting actor. HANDOUTS

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MEET THE CONDO



SOUTHERN SPRINGS TOWNHOMES

Modern kitchens

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

From Park Homes— the award-winning developer of multi-family homes in Edmonton — Southern Springs is a popular lake-area townhome development in the city's booming Southeast. First-time homeowners are flocking to the affordable, contemporary homes, but there's appeal for all looking for convenience, amenities and a hot location.

Housing amenities

Standard Finishes include quartz countertops, nine-foot ceilings, laminate flooring, soft-close cabinets, high-efficiency double-glazed windows, and designer light fixtures. There's modern kitchens with a standard black appliance package, (upgrades available) bedroom-level laundry and a two-car attached garage.

Location and transit

Southern Springs is in the Walker Lakes community, located conveniently adjacent to a transit centre with quick links to downtown, U of A and Grant MacEwan. Vehicle commuters can make quick work of the drive via Ellerslie Rd., the Anthony Henday Ring Rd. and Whitemud Drive.

In the neighbourhood

Schools, shopping, dining and entertainment, plus health care and other services are all handy. The Summerside neighbourhood is just moments away, while South Edmonton Common offers a plethora of amenities. Recreation, lakes and green spaces are also nearby. LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

+ NEED TO KNOW

What: Southern Springs townhomes
Builder/developer: Park Homes
Location: South Edmonton, off Ellerslie Rd.
Building: Blocks of three-storey townhomes in Walker Lakes
Pricing: \$270s to \$340s

Sizes: 1,200 to 1,600 sq. ft.
Model: Two and three-bedroom homes in varying layouts
Status: Currently selling final phase—over 60 per cent sold
Sales Centre: 655 Watt Blvd.
Website: southernsprings.parkhomes.ca
Phone: 780-701-5616

DESIGN

This is not your father's rec room

When asked to build a luxury home for a house tour this year, designer Kenyon Woods opted to include a rec room — but not the rec room of his childhood.

Unlike old-time rec rooms with their wood paneling, ceiling tiles, box TVs and cast-off furniture, this one measures about 800 square feet on the main floor, with space for watching TV, shooting pool, rock climbing and more.

"Media rooms used to be off by themselves," said Woods, owner of Authentic Custom Homes in

Oklahoma City.

"I'm tired of the theatre or game room being separated. Today, families want to be together" even if they're doing different activities.

Recreation rooms of all shapes and sizes are popular in new homes, according to a recent survey by U.S. Houzz and Home, an online source of interior design photos and decor ideas.

Gaming and entertainment spaces, gyms and playrooms were among the top uses for rec rooms, it said.

Clients often want "several different areas in one large, open space," agreed Kristen DuChemin, design director for the Columbus, Ohio, homebuilder Romanelli & Hughes.

For some, that means adding game tables like foosball, shuffleboard, air hockey and billiards.

Chance Pack, spokesman for game manufacturer Valley Dynamo in Richland Hill, Texas, says sales of game tables, which dipped during the recession, have seen an uptick as the home-building industry rebounds.

Parents and grandparents like gaming tables, he said, because they are interactive and inter-generational, luring kids away from electronics and into family activities.

"People are really focused on the entertainment aspect of their home," Pack said.

Minneapolis interior designer Billy Beson also recommends tables with built-in game boards and bean-bag chairs, which are great for TV viewing and can easily be moved when not in use.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Recreation rooms are gaining popularity in new home builds. AUTHENTIC CUSTOM HOMES VIA AP

Fit some cheer into your tiny space

HOLIDAYS

Creating focal points key to avoiding clutter

Piling on the holiday decor may be the most obvious way to decorate the home for the season, but for those with limited floor or wall space, too much finery can feel "a bit invasive," says designer Karl Lohnes.

The solution for small spaces, he suggests, is to pay attention to scale and create focal points. Lohnes did just that when dressing the 650-square-foot main floor of his own townhome, a space that incorporates the entrance, kitchen and living and dining rooms.

"Dotting things everywhere makes a smaller space look more cluttered, at Christmas or any time of year. So don't just, for example, pop cards here and there. I put up strings on the wall near my front door and hang cards there to make an impact," says Lohnes.



Adding some glitter to the table is a simple way to bring a festive feel into your home, even if you don't have a ton of space. COURTESY HOMESENSE

Designer Jo Alcorn may be thinking about larger-scale holiday décor — she just decorated the Table Rock Welcome Centre for Niagara Falls' Winter Festival of Lights — but she, too, recommends "focused" seasonal décor in small spaces.

"Tabletop decor is a great solution if you are short on floor

space," Alcorn says. "You can use dining, side and coffee tables — all of them can incorporate holiday decor. I love putting a small tree on a table top — it adds interest and romance and works well for families with animals or young children."

For homes that don't have room for a wide-hipped tree,

Lohnes likes to go tall and skinny, pointing to a 2.7-metre, pre-lit Dawson Pencil Pine tree from Walmart. Placing the tree on top of a box, which Lohnes wrapped in a faux-fur throw, gives it even more height.

Home Depot also offers a space-saving tree, with one flat side that stands up against a

"I say bring on the sparkle — along with the peace on earth, please."

Cori Halpern

wall.

Lohnes owns an antique silver punch bowl that only gets used once or twice a season, so he makes it do double duty this time of year. Framed by gold and silver Christmas crackers, it's topped with inexpensive unbreakable ornaments from Walmart. First, Lohnes filled the bottom of the bowl with newspapers and layered baubles on top.

Lohnes also likes to create a "portable Christmas tray" filled with candles, nuts, potpourri and greenery.

"It can go from being a centerpiece in the dining room to a coffee table to a credenza. It's a way to have holiday in every room without having to decorate them all."

For holiday get-togethers in tight spaces, designer/stylist Janette Ewen — who jet-sets between her L.A.-based design studio Parker Barrow and a small footprint Toronto condo — also likes to marry décor with food and drink.

She makes garden urns stand in as ice buckets, using them to create drink stations.

Designer Cori Halpern keeps holiday décor restrained, yet she does love seasonal shimmer.

In her small Toronto house, she displays her collection of menorahs, placing them — wherever possible — near windows, where passersby can see them. She also piles LED strings into hurricane lamps, and fills glass vases with dreidels or shiny silver and gold-wrapped Hanukkah gelt. She favours metallic tones — especially coppery golds — for the holidays.

"A lot of people don't have metallics in their home at any other time of year, but they work with any décor — traditional, modern and anything in between. So I say bring on the sparkle — along with the peace on earth, please."

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Dubois ready to lead Canada

WORLD JUNIORS

No. 3 overall draft pick looks to spark his game

Highly rated prospect Pierre-Luc Dubois hasn't dominated the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League since his return from the Columbus Blue Jackets camp, but he has a chance to make up for it at the world junior championship.

The big centre, who will reportedly be traded by the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles to the Blainville-Boisbriand Armada on Sunday, has a decent, but hardly overwhelming, six goals and 18 points in 20 QMJHL games this season, well off-pace from the 42 goals and 99 points he put up in 62 games last season.

That performance prompted the Blue Jackets to skip over higher-ranked Jesse Puljujarvi and take Dubois third overall in the NHL draft in June.

"It's never easy to come back to junior from the NHL," Canadian junior coach Domi-

nique Ducharme said of Dubois. "There's always a period to adapt and to bring your mind back to it."

"He wanted to be playing in the NHL and that's quite normal, right? So there are a lot of mental things to go through when you face that. I saw that with (Jonathan) Drouin when he came back to Halifax (from the Tampa Bay Lightning). It took him a month, or a month and half to get going, but once he did he was pretty dominant. I can see the same thing probably happening with Pierre-Luc when he came back."

There are no star attractions, like Connor McDavid in 2015 or Mitch Marner last year, on the Canadian team that will play in the world junior event Dec. 26 to Jan. 5 in Toronto and Montreal. Dubois and Dylan Strome, drafted third overall in 2015 by the Arizona Coyotes, are closest to star status.

Strome is among five re-

turning players from the Canadian team that lost in the quarter-finals of last year's world juniors in Finland. Dubois didn't make that team.

"Last year, on the ice, I was ready, but I was nervous," said Dubois, 18. "It was my first camp with older guys."

"This year I went to the summer (development) camp. I met everybody. I think this year I'm mentally ready. I know what to expect. When I go on the ice, I try to have fun. Last year, I just tried not to make mistakes."

He made it to the final day of the Blue Jackets camp before being sent back to junior.

"Nobody likes to get cut, but it's a process," said Dubois. "I don't think coming back at 18 is a bad thing."

"It's going to help my career in the long term. I'm concentrating on what I can do to help the team win and what I can do to get better. I'll try again next year." THE CANADIAN PRESS

“Nobody likes to get cut, but it's a process. I don't think coming back (to junior hockey) at 18 is a bad thing. Pierre-Luc Dubois



Pierre-Luc Dubois of the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles controls the puck against Zack MacEwen of the Gatineau Olympiques on Oct. 21 in Gatineau, Que., during QMJHL action. FRANCOIS LAPLANTE/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Defenceman Gryba back on Oilers' active roster

The Edmonton Oilers have activated defenceman Eric Gryba from injured reserve.

Gryba, 28, has appeared in 14 games with the Oilers this season, registering 14 penalty minutes.

The six-foot-four, 228-pound blue-liner has 35 points (five goals, 30 assists) and 276 penalty minutes over 232 career NHL games with Ottawa and Edmonton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Eric Gryba
GETTY IMAGES

ESKIMOS

Washington signs on through 2019



Tony Washington carries the Grey Cup during a championship celebration in Edmonton last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Edmonton Eskimos have signed offensive lineman Tony Washington to a contract extension, keeping him with the team through 2019.

Washington, who was set to become a free agent, was traded to Edmonton in May 2014 and re-signed in December 2014.

An integral member of the Eskimos' offensive line, he has started at left tackle in 45 regular-season games and four playoff games with Edmonton, including the 2015 Grey Cup championship victory.

Washington is the third pending free agent the Eskimos have extended this month, including offensive lineman Justin Sorensen and kicker Sean Whyte. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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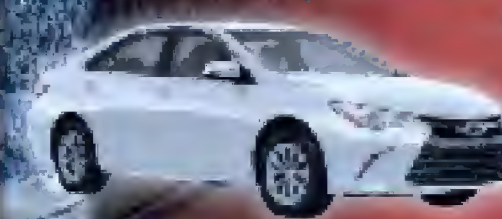
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Fabregas states his case to maintain Chelsea's lead

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUNDUP

Spaniard sinks Sunderland as Liverpool move into second

Used sparingly by Chelsea during its long run of victories, Cesc Fabregas is providing significant reminders of his enduring value to the English Premier League leaders. Two weeks ago, it was Fabregas' raking pass to set up Diego Costa's goal that sparked Chelsea's come-from-behind win at Manchester City.

On Wednesday, it was the Spain midfielder's classy goal — a one-two with Willian before a composed finish from the edge of the area — that earned Chelsea a 1-0 win at Sunderland, a 10th straight victory in the league and six-point lead over Liverpool and Arsenal in the Premier League. "In football today, people forget very, very, very quickly who you are, and what you can do," Fabregas said. "Hopefully now I can get a run of games

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

- Middlesbrough 0, Liverpool 3
- West Ham 1, Burnley 0
- Sunderland 0, Chelsea 1
- Man City 2, Watford 0
- West Brom 3, Swansea 1
- Stoke 0, Southampton 0
- Crystal Palace 1, Manchester United 2
- Tottenham 3, Hull 0

in the team."

This was Chelsea's third 1-0 win in its last five matches. In its 10 straight wins, Chelsea has only conceded two goals and this latest clean sheet was preserved by a stunning save by Thibaut Courtois off Patrick van Aanholt late in the game. It was a night when all of Chelsea's potential title rivals — Liverpool, Manchester City and Tottenham — won.

Adam Lallana scored two goals and set up another to inspire Liverpool to a 3-0 victory away to Middlesbrough as goalkeeper Simon Mignolet marked his return to the team with a clean sheet. Liverpool climb into joint second place with Arsenal.

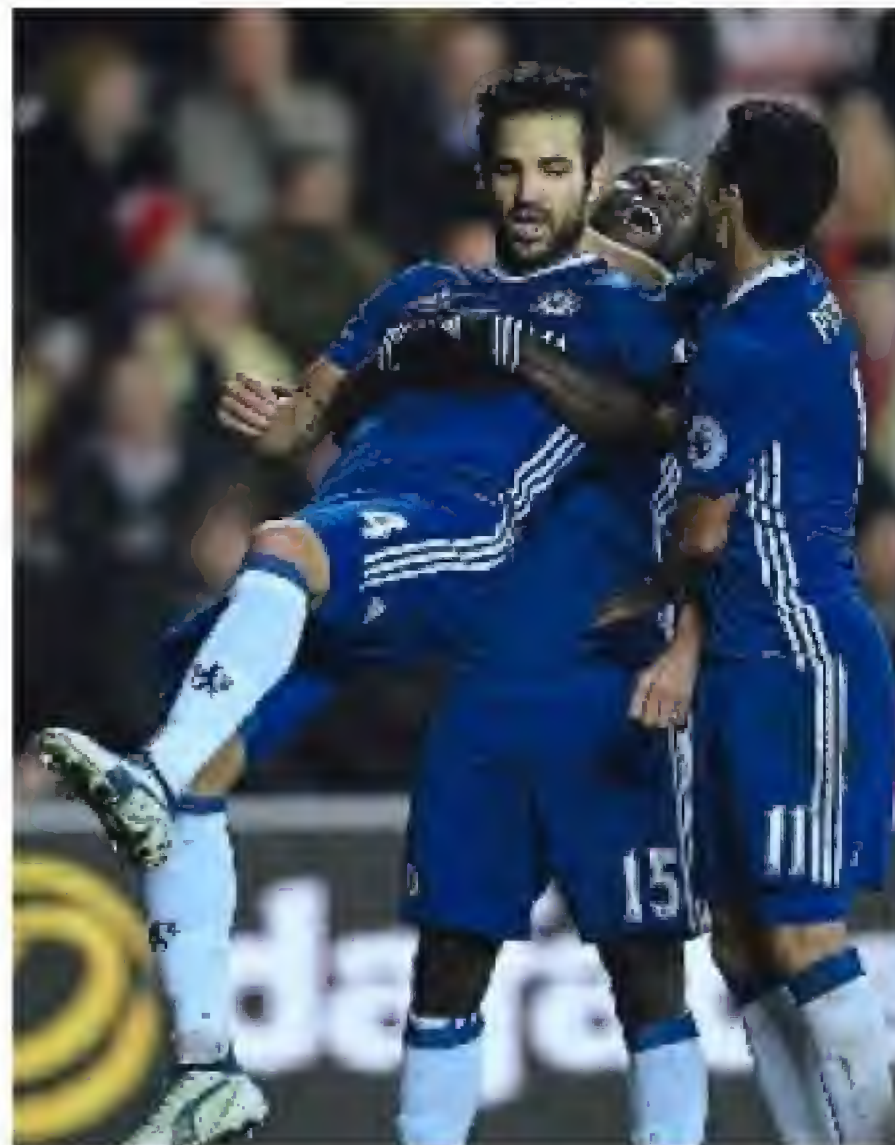
City lost midfielder Ilkay Gundogan to a serious knee injury in a 2-0 win at home to Watford that brought mixed

emotions for manager Pep Guardiola. Goals by Pablo Zabaleta and David Silva ensuring City bounced back from consecutive losses to remain in fourth spot.

Paul Pogba opened the scoring and Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored an 88th-minute winner in a 1-2 away win at Crystal Palace for United, which has collected consecutive victories in the league for the first time since August.

United remain three points behind fifth-place Tottenham. Meanwhile, Christian Eriksen scored twice as Tottenham beat Hull 3-0, and Salomon Rondon scored a hat trick of headers to guide seventh-place West Bromwich Albion to a 3-1 win over struggling Swansea. Mark Noble's penalty earned West Ham a 1-0 win over Burnley.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Chelsea's Cesc Fabregas, left, celebrates scoring the winner with his teammates Victor Moses, centre, and Pedro against Sunderland at Stadium of Light. LAURENCE GRIFFITHS/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Stampeders re-sign Thorn

The Calgary Stampeders have signed Canadian offensive lineman Cam Thorn. The three-year veteran was eligible to become a free agent in February.

Thorn originally signed with the Stampeders in June after two seasons with the B.C. Lions. In his first season with Calgary, he appeared in 13 games and made three starts at centre and one at left guard.

He was part of a Stamps offensive line that allowed the fewest sacks in the CFL in 2016 and helped Jerome Messam win the CFL rushing title.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reed named Als new GM

He's been a player, an assistant coach and a head coach in the CFL. Now Kavis Reed will get to try his hand at being a general manager.

The Montreal Alouettes announced Wednesday that Reed has been hired as their new GM. He replaces Jim Popp, who was fired Nov. 7.

The Alouettes also announced the surprising hiring of Patrick Boivin as their president and chief executive officer and removed the interim tag from head coach Jacques Chapdelaine's job title.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wilson in rehab after stroke

Ron Wilson, whose NHL coaching career included a four-year stint with the Maple Leafs, is expected to make a full recovery after a recent stroke, according to family and friends.

Wilson, 61, has reportedly begun rehabilitation and sent messages to friends saying he's improving. The Windsor, Ont. native, who coached more than 1,400 NHL games, received well wishes across the hockey world Wednesday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

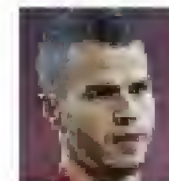
MLS

CFLers mock Seba over pitch remarks

He might have been the 2015 MLS MVP, but according to CFL players, Sebastian Giovinco is a \$7-million crybaby. CFLers aren't impressed with the Toronto FC star's suggestions that the natural grass at BMO Field was damaged because the Toronto Argonauts played at the stadium this year.

Italian Giovinco, who came off because of cramps during the MLS Cup Final against the Seattle Sounders last Saturday, blamed the field conditions while speaking through an interpreter.

"Giovinco, both my hamstrings would have to cramp off the bone before I took myself



Sebastian Giovinco
GETTY IMAGES

out of the championship game. #cutfromdifferentcloth," tweeted Argos defensive back Matt Black. "That's some serious mental weakness," chimed in Roughriders wide receiver Rob Bagg.

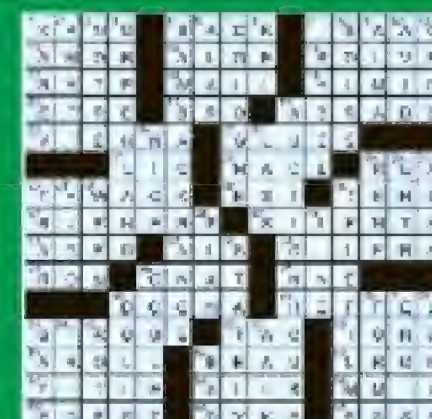
"Haha wow. Softer than baby ish!" added Argos offensive lineman Wayne Smith. There was some pushback from fans who suggested the Argos might be jealous of the attention TFC has gotten this season.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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8	1	2	6	7	9	5	4	3
3	4	7	8	5	1	2	9	6
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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Spicy Carrot Soup



PHOTO: MAYA VISNEN

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Amp up or chill out the spices in this carrot soup depending on how you or your family like it.

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1 onion chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic minced
- 1/2 inch of fresh ginger minced
- 1 teaspoon chili
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3 or 4 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 3 cups low sodium vegetable or chicken stock
- juice of half a lemon
- plain yogurt to garnish

Directions

1. Warm a glug or two of olive oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium heat.

2. Sauté onions, garlic and ginger for about two minutes. Stir in spices and cook for another minute or so. Add carrots and stir well until they are coated lightly in oil and spice.

3. Add stock and increase the heat until it boils.

4. Reduce and allow to simmer for about 20 minutes or until carrots are quite tender.

5. Puree in small batches until the soup is quite smooth. You may need to add a little water or stock to thin it if it's too thick.

6. Stir in lemon juice.

7. Taste and check seasoning. Serve garnished with yogurt.

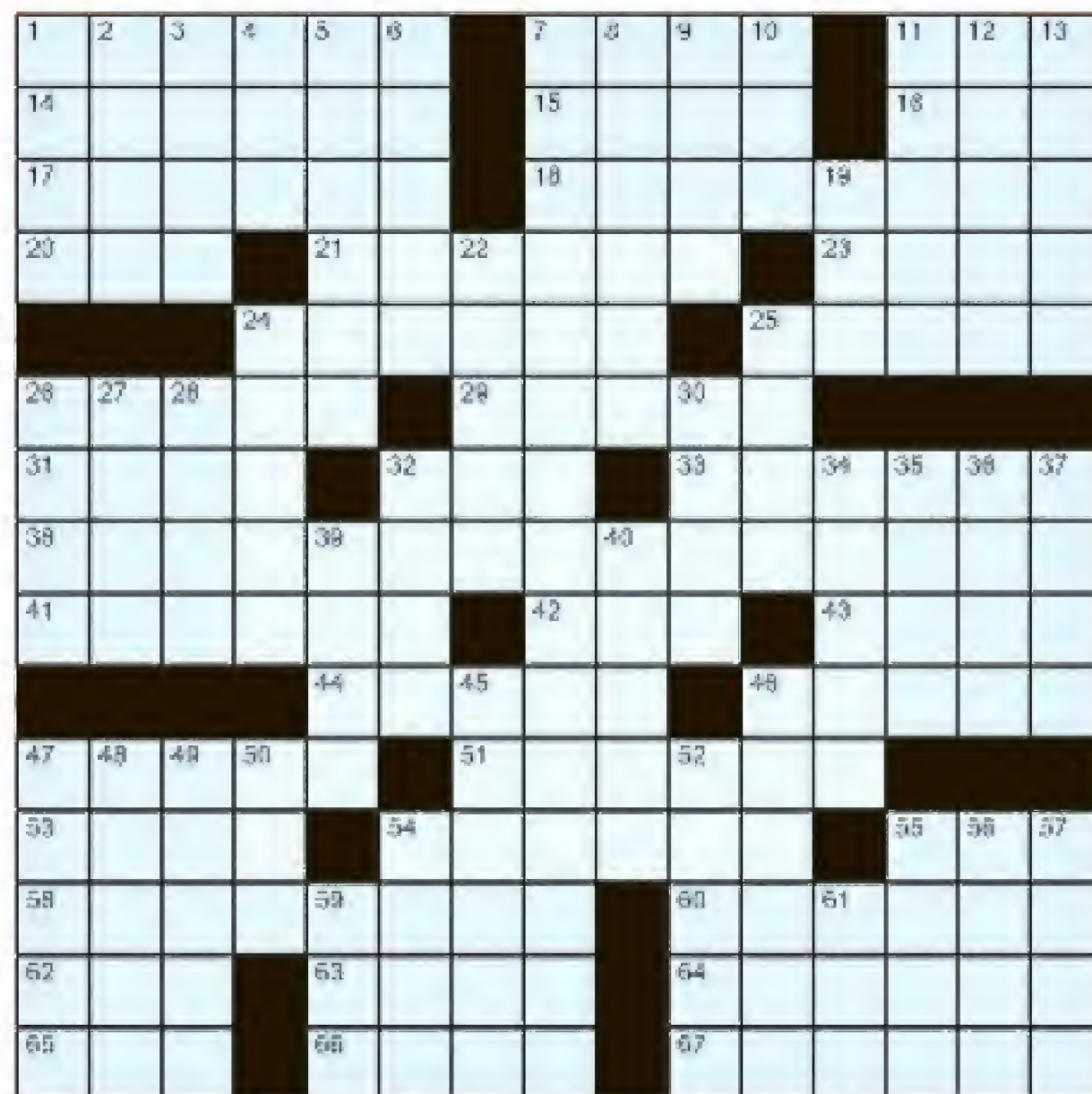
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Help get the hockey goal
7. Shindig
11. Pop-ups, e.g.
14. Less tight
15. Taxi alternative service
16. Orchestra
17. Reunion attendees
18. Municipality in Manitoba, Norfolk
20. Pine- (Cleaning brand)
21. Cleric with a wooden bench
23. Lotus position-doing class
24. The Enlightened One
25. Snake's toxin
26. Crouch
29. funds
31. Serve the wine
32. Favouring
33. Maple, in Quebec
38. Festive faux firs: 2 wds.
41. Doesn't catch, as a bus perhaps
42. Meshwork
43. Gather the crops
44. Male deers
46. Hoarse
47. The Matthew explorer John
51. 1981: "Being with You" by Robinson
53. Declare with certainty
54. Paper clip alternative
55. Sort of deposit
58. 'Crossroads to the Future' village in Alberta northeast of Calgary



- where Squirt the Skunk is the mascot
60. Practical
62. Work unit
63. Citizen of Ankara or Istanbul
64. Carpentry joint parts
65. Particular loaf
66. Pepsi holders

67. Showbiz legend Ms. Gabon: 2 wds.

DOWN

1. Sigher's word
2. Unaccompanied
3. Inner light
4. Philosophy
5. Lampoon
6. Gave it a go

7. On animal bone artifacts in archaeology, they indicate that tools were used, such as in the preparation of meat: 2 wds.
8. In a country far away
9. Pictured
10. Letters with Prince

- Charles' name
11. Cook's covering
12. Wild dog of Australia
13. "Heat" by Patti Page
19. Bionic part on Colonel Steve Austin
22. Specific-purpose committee: 2 wds.

24. Mr. Karloff of scary movies
25. Green, in Quebec City
26. Internet junk
27. Ms. Spelling
28. Baseball stats
30. Money, informally
32. Boxer's hand formation
34. Range
35. Hive denizens
36. Jump
37. Catch a glimpse
39. Celebration
40. Ancient Greek creator of fables
45. Sailor's 'backward'
46. Peanut Butter Cups name
47. Tossed pole in Highland games
48. Office labels brand
49. Ecu
50. Alternatives
52. Butterfingers
54. Arctic seabird
55. "The Wizard" (1939)
56. Bits of vocal acrobatics
57. Queen in Disney's "Frozen" (2013)
59. Long list ender
61. Disney animated movie deer

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Something unexpected will interrupt your home routine today. Small appliances might break down, or minor breakages could occur. It could be anything! Be a Boy Scout, and be prepared.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Pay attention to everything you say and do to avoid accidents today, because this kind of energy is in the air. But if you are mindful, you will be just fine.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Something having to do with your finances, your possessions or your cash flow will be interrupted. You might lose money or you might find something!

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today the Moon is in your sign, at odds with Uranus. This makes you independent and rather obsessed with things. Furthermore, everybody is restless and irritable.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Something occurring behind the scenes will have a domino effect and possibly interrupt your life or your plans today. Give yourself extra time so you have the space to deal with this.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You can expect to be surprised by a female acquaintance today. Possibly, you will meet someone who is really different or "out there."

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Relations with female authority figures are challenging today. This includes mom, bosses, judges, nurses and the police. Don't test your luck. Be courteous.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Your travel plans will be interrupted today. You can almost count on this. Double-check all important details, and allow yourself extra traveling time.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Stay in touch with your bank account and anything having to do with inheritances and shared property, because something might adversely affect these areas today. Make sure you know what's happening.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
A close friend or partner might throw you a curveball today. He or she might want more freedom or demand a change. Or she might take you out for dinner.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Expect interruptions at your workplace today. It could be anything: Computer glitches, equipment breakdowns and canceled appointments, as well as staff shortages.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Be extra vigilant today, because this is an accident-prone day for your kids. Keep your eyes peeled. Meanwhile, social plans might change.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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